

<b>Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/538,038	SLACK ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	SCOTT LONG	1633	

**All Participants:**

(1) SCOTT LONG.

(2) MARK MARIN.

**Date of Interview:** 6 January 2011

**Status of Application:** ALLOWED

(3) \_\_\_\_\_.

(4) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Time:** 12 noon

**Type of Interview:**

☒ Telephonic

☐ Video Conference

☐ Personal (Copy given to: ☐ Applicant ☐ Applicant's representative)

Exhibit Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ Yes ☒ No

If Yes, provide a brief description: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Part I.**

Rejection(s) discussed:

Claims discussed:

21-26

Prior art documents discussed:

Yao et al. and Ueda et al.

**Part II.**

SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW DESCRIBING THE GENERAL NATURE OF WHAT WAS DISCUSSED:

See Continuation Sheet

**Part III.**

☒ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview directly resulted in the allowance of the application. The examiner will provide a written summary of the substance of the interview in the Notice of Allowability.

☐ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview, since the interview did not result in resolution of all issues. A brief summary by the examiner appears in Part II above.

/SCOTT LONG/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1633

(Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature – if appropriate)

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was discussed: The examiner called to inform the applicant's representative that many claims in the application have been found allowable (namely 1, 6-13, 18-20 and 28-39 ). However, the examiner informed the applicant's representative that a rejection could be made on claims 21-26.

The chimeric G $\alpha$ 15/transducin44 and chimeric G $\alpha$ 16/transducin44 of Yao et al. anticipate the claimed structures encompassed by instant claims 21-26 having homology of at least 80%, 90% or 95% to SEQ ID NO:2. In fact, the chimeric G $\alpha$ /transducin44 G-proteins of Yao et al. have 98.6% identity to G $\alpha$ /gustducin44 G-proteins of the instant claims. Claims 24-26 recite that the claimed chimeric G-proteins are able to "bind to one or more of the human bitter, sweet, and umami taste receptors." The examiner notes that Ueda et al. teaches "Rod-  $\alpha$ -transducin (G $\alpha$ 1) and cone-  $\alpha$ -transducin (G $\alpha$ 2) are present in vertebrate taste cells" (page 7379, col.2, parag.1), thereby suggesting the inherency of this characteristic in chimeric G $\alpha$ /transducin44. Accordingly, the examiner does not believe claims 21-26 can be allowed as written.

The examiner suggested that an Examiner's amendment would be required. He suggested a few possibilities: (1) cancelling claims 21-26; (2) incorporating the functional language of claim 1 into claims 21 and 26; or (3) narrowing the scope of the % identity to at least 99%.

The applicant's representative informed the examiner that he would consult with his client and make contact later in the week with a response.

The applicant's representative contacted the examiner on 1/7/2011 to grant permission for an examiner's amendment, which cancels claims 21-26.